

COMMISSION ON CHILDREN'S JUSTICE
APRIL 14, 2003
MEETING MINUTES

Members Present: Judges John Holstein, Chair, Susan Block, Thomas Frawley, Glenn Norton, Vice Chair, Nancy Rahmeyer, Roy Richter, and James Welsh; Commissioner John Payne; Senators Bill Foster and Anita Yeckel (for Peter Kinder); Representatives Catherine Hanaway and Bryan Stevenson; Julie Cole-Agee, Beth Dessem, Deanna Gallagher, Frank Martin, Steve Renne, Melanie Scheetz, and Andrea Whitfield

Members Not Present: Senator Pat Dougherty; Representative Yvonne Wilson; Patrick Lynn and Betty Sims

Commission Staff Present: Gary Waint and Lynette Ricks

I. CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Commission on Children's Justice was called to order by the Honorable John C. Holstein, Chair, in the Division II Courtroom, Missouri Supreme Court, Jefferson City, Missouri at 10:00 a.m.

The Chair called for approval of the minutes from the meeting of March 31, 2003. The minutes were approved as submitted.

The Chair stated that items could be placed on the agenda by submitting written requests along with a synopsis of what will be presented to Gary Waint. If the presenter is not a Commission member, they will need to be sponsored by someone on the Commission in order to present.

II. ALABAMA CHILD PROTECTION

Judge Holstein advised the Commission that Senator Dougherty could not attend the meeting to provide information regarding the Alabama child protection system. He stated that Alabama has set significant goals and changed from a child protection service agency to a family service agency.

III. INTERIM REPORT

Steve Renne will prepare a response to the Performance Audit by State Auditor Claire McCaskill for the April 28, 2003, Commission meeting.

The Commission agreed to include a disclaimer at the beginning of the report indicating that while there are financial constraints on the state budget, the recommendations included in the report are based on what is in the best interest for children and families.

Prevention and Efforts to Prevent Removal

The Commission agreed to include GAL's and CASA's under the first recommendation under "Prevention and Efforts to Prevent Removal."

The Commission discussed the second recommendation regarding accreditation organizations. Steve Renne will provide information about such organizations at the April 28, 2003, Commission meeting.

The Commission discussed agencies to monitor and report on the implementation of the Commission recommendations. Steve Renne will provide information regarding possible committees or task forces that would monitor implementation.

Hotline Intake

The Hotline Intake workgroup will discuss the distinction between the multidisciplinary team and family support team.

Frank Martin requested clarification on the last bullet under Hotline Intake regarding the use of MULES and NCIC by court personnel. Gary Waint stated that MULES could not be used for background checks on prospective parents, according to the Missouri State Highway Patrol. The report will be changed to clarify. Speaker Hanaway's House Bill 679 provides for a provision that will authorize juvenile officers to conduct a MULES/NCIC query on prospective custodians.

There was discussion held on Senate Bill 679 regarding the child well-being referral and reducing the number of hotline calls case workers have to investigate.

Judge Welsh moved to keep the law as it is regarding anonymity of the hotline reporter. Commissioner Payne seconded the motion. The motion was amended by Judge Norton to recommend that mandated reporters would be required to report their name when making a hotline report. Commissioner Payne seconded the motion. The amendment was accepted by Judge Welsh. The motion with amendment passed.

The Commission discussed social worker liability in regard to injury to a child while in the home or in foster care. **Judge Norton made the motion that no new criminal offense be created in the child protection reform efforts. Julie Cole Agee seconded the motion. The motion passed.**

V. NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT

The Chair advised that the next meeting would begin with breaking into workgroups. After the workgroups have individual discussion, the Commission will reconvene.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

The next meeting of the Commission will be April 28, 2003, at 10:00 a.m. in the Division II Courtroom of the Missouri Supreme Court.